PATENT
Attorney Docket No. P1397US00 (98-0865)

#20
1 of 3

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Kim C. Smith

Serial No.: 09/421,580   Art Unit: 2174

Filed: October 20, 1999   Examiner: Mylinh T. Tran

For: *SIMULATED THREE-DIMENSIONAL NAVIGATIONAL MENU SYSTEM*

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SUPPLEMENTAL APPEAL BRIEF

Applicant respectfully requests reinstatement of the appeal filed on June 17, 2003. This is a response, by Supplemental Appeal Brief, to the Office Action dated October 9, 2003, rejecting claims 1-7, 10-20, 23-33, 36-46, and 49-76. This is an appeal from the Final Office Action dated May 6, 2003, finally rejecting claims 1-76.

(1)   REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is Gateway, Inc.

(2)   RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Appellant is not aware of any related appeals or interferences.

(3)   STATUS OF CLAIMS

The status of the claims is as follows:

Claims allowed: none

Claims objected to: 8, 9, 21, 22, 34, 35, 47, and 48.

Claims rejected: Claims 1-7, 10-20, 23-33, 36-46, and 49-76.

(4)   STATUS OF AMENDMENTS AFTER FINAL

There have been no amendments proffered after the Final Office Action of May 6, 2003.   The Patent Office reopened prosecution on October 9, 2003, with a non-final Office Action. This appeal brief is responsive to the Office Action mailed October 9, 2003.

(5)   SUMMARY OF INVENTION

Applicant's invention provides a more informative and useful method of identifying selectable options in a user interface.   A user interface, system, method and software for displaying a simulated three-dimensional display of menu options to a user, thereby maximizing use of a display's real estate by presenting all available options 315 at once while at the same time presenting certain options in a more pronounced manner (e.g., FIGS. 9A and 9B). The system monitors for running applications, polls the running applications for any available options, and displays the options in the simulated three-dimensional format. (page 42, lines 7-11, of the specification)

The present invention provides a three-dimensional menu system that continuously presents all available options to a user. The options, or hotspots, in the menu are continuously selectable (e.g., page 19, lines 4-10).   The items are easily accessed and discerned when in the foreground of the three-dimensional display and more difficult to discern and pinpoint in the background of the three-dimensional display. All available options 315 are displayed to a user without requiring any user interaction. In addition, the amount of time a user must wait to select an option is reduced. Minimizing wait time is facilitated by configuring all of the displayed targets to be selectable at all times, i.e., whether in the foreground or in the background. (page 27, lines 12-20)

(6)   ISSUES

I.   Whether the Patent Office properly rejected Claims 1-3, 5-7, 10-16, 18-20, 23-29, 31-33, 36-42, 44-46, and 49-76 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Goh, U.S. Patent No. 5,678,015?

II.   Whether the Patent Office properly rejected Claims 4, 17, 30, and 43 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goh, U.S. Patent No. 5,678,015, in view of Nielsen, U.S. Patent No. 6,078,935?

(7)   GROUPING OF CLAIMS

For each ground of rejection that appellant contests herein which applies to more than one claim, such additional claims, to the extent separately identified and argued below, do not stand and fall together.

The Claims are at least as distinguishable as grouped below:

Group I: Claims 1, 3, 6, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, 19, 23, 24, 26, 27, 29, 32, 36, 37, 39, 40, 42, 45, 49, 50, 52, 54-56, 60-62, 66-68, and 72-74.

Group II: Claims 2, 15, 28, and 41.

Group III: Claims 5, 18, 31, and 44.

Group IV: Claims 7, 20, 33, and 46.

Group V: Claims 53, 59, 65, and 71.

Group VI: Claims 57, 63, 69, and 75.

Group VII: Claims 58, 64, 70, and 76.

Group VIII: Claims 4, 17, 30, and 43.

(8)   ARGUMENT

The present invention maximizes use of a display's real estate by presenting all available options at once while at the same time presenting certain options in a more pronounced manner. All claims recite at least two targets 315. The at least two targets are capable of simulated rotation about an axis. The two targets are continuously selectable during the simulated rotation (e.g., FIGS. 9A, 9B, 10A, 10B). All of the at least two selectable targets displayed on at least a portion of the display are capable of being simultaneously displayed in a simulated rotation about an axis while each one of all of the at least two selectable targets displayed on at least a portion of the display remains continuously selectable during the simulated rotation

Neither Goh nor Nielsen disclose or suggest these limitations. Goh discloses a rotatable cube in which all six faces may be made translucent, but does not disclose that all selectable targets are continuously selectable during a simulated rotation. Nielsen discloses a web page with a tool tip in which placement of a cursor over text leads to additional text being displayed. Because Goh relates to an extremely intense icon environment in which Goh resorts to displaying the icons on the faces of a cube (column 4, lines 12-25), Goh is not amenable to modification to add more text that would clutter the presentation of icons. The drop-down menus of Goh relate to setting up a particular cube configuration (column 6, lines 15-29).
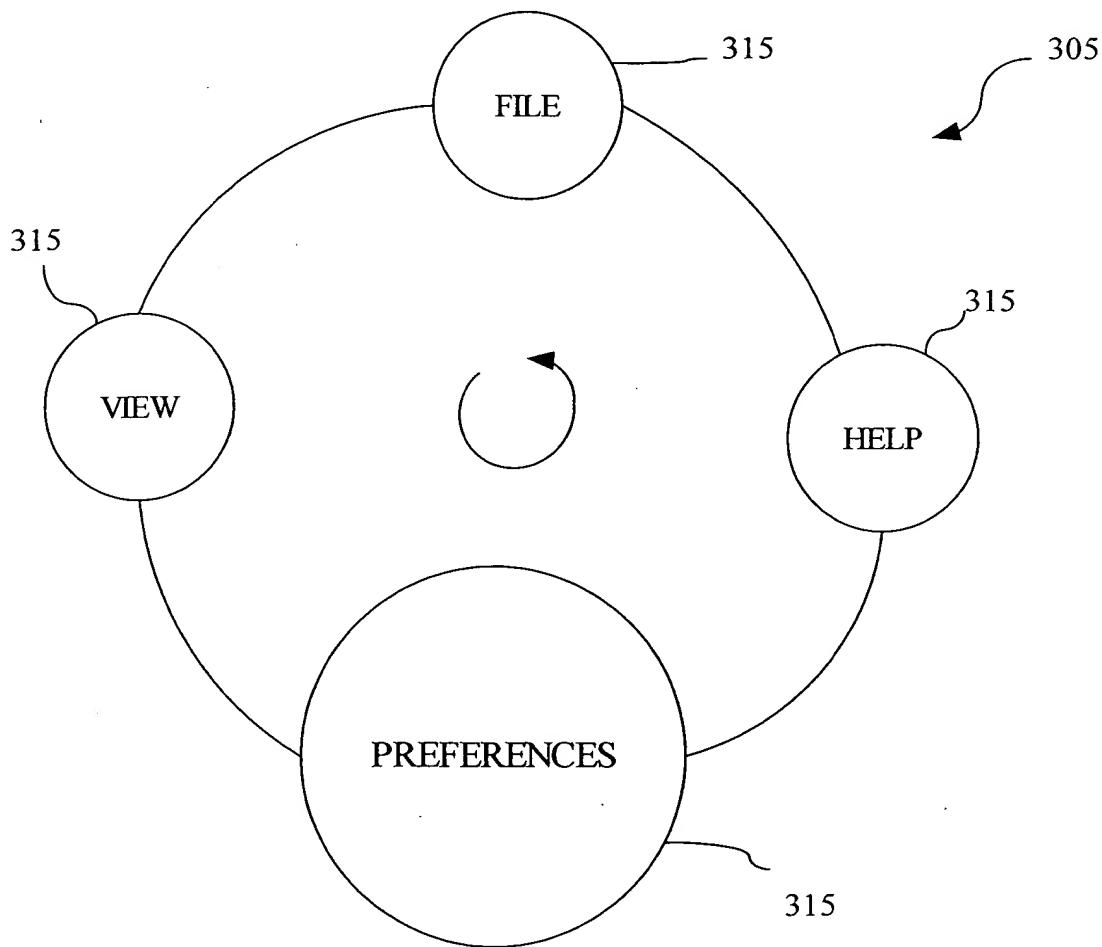
PORTION OF FIG. 4

Inventive features of the present invention may be found illustrated in various drawing figures (e.g., FIGS. 4, 9A, 9B, 10A, 10B). An exemplary implementation from (the upper, right hand portion of) FIG. 4 is shown above.

Preliminary Comments

Originally, Claims 1-52 were presented in the application for patent. The Patent Office rejected all 52 claims as being unpatentable over Matthews in view of Yeh in the Office Action mailed April 30, 2002. Applicant responded with arguments and without amendment to the claims. In the response, the inappropriateness of Yeh was discussed. The Patent Office rejected all unamended 52 claims again using the same prior art references in the same way in a Final Office Action mailed July 8, 2002; this time with a response to arguments section. Applicant highlighted the failures in the teachings of the cited prior art (especially, in the inappropriateness of Yeh) in a response after final; there was no amendment of the claims. The Patent Office again refused to allow the unamended claims in an Advisory Action mailed October 24, 2002.

Applicant filed a first appeal brief on October 28, 2002, in which the arguments presented in earlier responses were again presented.

Only when faced with an Appeal Brief did the Patent Office truly respond to Applicant's arguments and change the prior art cited to reject the claims. The Patent Office responded by reopening prosecution in which a new reference (Goh) was added and a clearly inappropriate reference (Yeh) was dropped.

The Patent Office is reminded that prior art rejections should ordinarily be confined strictly to the best available art. MPEP 702.02

If the prior art rejection based upon Matthews and Yeh were deficient (as admittedly it was), the Patent Office should have admitted such, especially in view of Applicant's pointing out the inappropriateness of Yeh, after the response to the Office Action mailed April 30, 2002, or after the response to Final Office Action mailed July 8, 2002, instead of maintaining the same position taken in the first Office Action. Prosecution has been unnecessarily prolonged because of the Patent Office's refusal to seriously consider Applicant's arguments before the first appeal brief.

In response to the first Appeal Brief, the Patent Office reopened prosecution with a non-final Office Action mailed January 2, 2003 in which Claims 1-52 were rejected as anticipated by Goh or as unpatentable over Goh in view of Matthews.

Applicant responded by amending Claims 1, 14, 27, and 40, and adding new claims 53-76. The deficiencies of Goh and Goh in view of Matthews in view of the current claims were pointed out in the response.

The Patent Office again repeated the rejections of Claims 1-52 and applied these same rejections to Claims 53-76 in a Final Office Action mailed May 6, 2003. There were minor changes in the text of the rejections from that of the Office Action mailed January 2, 2003, but the grouping of the claims remained the same.

In response to the second Appeal Brief, the Patent Office reopened prosecution with a non-final Office Action mailed October 9, 2003. For the first time during the prosecution and appeal history of this patent application, the Patent Office indicated that certain claims contained allowable subject matter; namely, claims 8, 9, 21, 22, 34, 35, 47, and 48. The Patent Office abandoned the use of the Matthews patent and, instead, used a new reference, Nielsen, in combination with Goh to reject claims 4, 17, 30, and 43.

Applicant notes the Patent Office has not changed prior art between Appeal Brief submissions. There also appears to be a migration of references. Initially, Matthews alone and the combination of Matthews and Yeh were asserted by the Patent Office before the first Appeal Brief and maintained twice despite arguments by Applicant that Yeh was not applicable. Twice, in the response to the First Office Action and in the response to the Final Office Action, the Patent Office maintained the same rejection using Matthews and Yeh. Only when confronted with an Appeal Brief that largely repeated Applicant's previous arguments did the Patent Office change the combination of prior art in reopened prosecution. Between the first and second appeal briefs, the Patent Office asserted Goh alone or the combination of Goh and Matthews against the claims. Applicant amended the Claims in response to the First Office Action after the first appeal brief and argued that the prior art did not teach or make obvious the claims as amended. The Patent Office reasserted the prior art rejections made in the First Office Action and made the next office action final. Applicant responded with a second Appeal Brief.

Again, the Patent Office has reopened prosecution in which Goh or the combination of Goh and Nielsen has been asserted to reject the claims.

Most objectionable is what appears to be less than a good faith effort by the Patent Office to consider arguments made by Applicant unless they appear in an appeal brief. The entire process has been unnecessarily extended and has been unnecessarily costly. Applicant wonders why, upon the initial analysis of Matthews and Yeh, a second non-final Office Action wasn't forthcoming citing Goh and Matthews in which case Applicant could have amended. The Patent Office could have asserted Goh and Nielsen at that point in a final office action. The result of this process would have been two amendments and an appeal brief. Instead, Applicant has prepared an amendment, an amendment after final, a first appeal brief, an amendment, and a second appeal brief to arrive at the same point. Applicant has been prejudiced by the actions taken by the Patent Office in not properly considering the merits of Applicant's arguments unless contained in an appeal brief.

ISSUE I

The issue is whether the Patent Office properly rejected Claims 1-3, 5-7, 10-16, 18-20, 23-29, 31-33, 36-42, 44-46, and 49-76 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Goh, U.S. Patent No. 5,678,015.

The reference must teach every element of the claim for anticipation (unless the element is inherent). MPEP § 2131.

Applicant's invention provides a more informative and useful method of identifying selectable options in a user interface.

Claims 1, 14, 27, and 40 recite "at least two selectable targets displayed on at least a portion of said display" and "all of said at least two selectable targets displayed on said at least a portion of said display capable of being simultaneously displayed in a simulated rotation about an axis while each one of said all of said at least two selectable targets displayed on said at least a portion of said display remains continuously selectable during said simulated rotation."

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FIG. 5
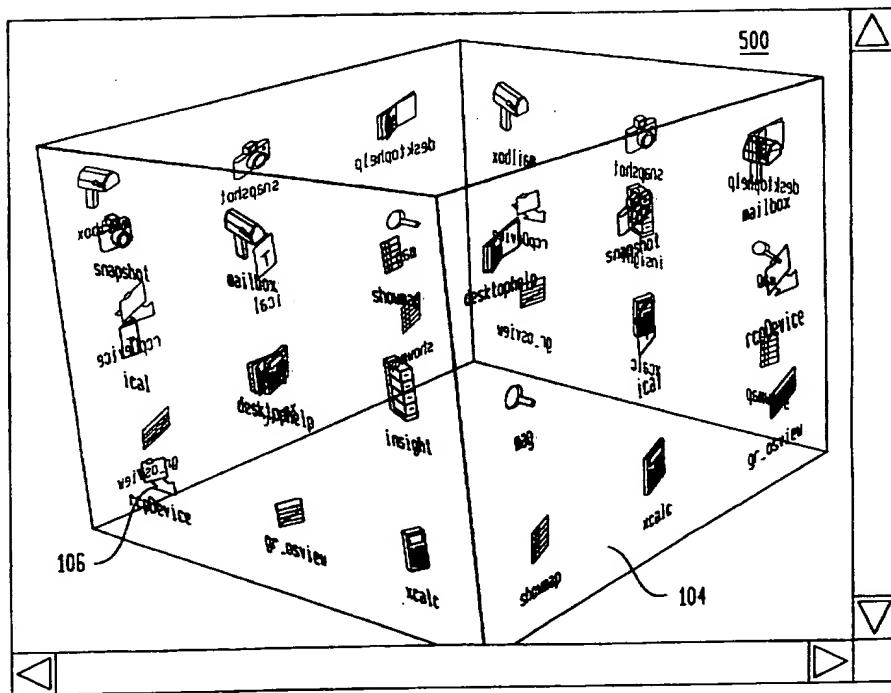
GROUP I

Applicant recites that each one of said all of said at least two selectable targets displayed on said at least a portion of said display **remains continuously** selectable during said simulated rotation. The present invention, as claimed, reduces wait time and facilitates use because the options are always selectable.

Goh discloses a rotatable six sided cube, each face of the cube being able to display a window (col. 4, lines 31-34; col. 3, lines 61-64). The faces are translucent so that all six faces are visible to a user simultaneously (col. 4, lines 31-35). In effect, as shown in Figures 4-6, overlapping images of the faces are presented to the viewer. Goh is not clear on how selection of a window or icon is performed, but discloses that a window (corresponding to a face) is selectable by a user (col. 5, lines 40-41). Goh discloses that the rotation pattern is such that each face of the cube is displayed as normal to the user's line of sight once during each rotation cycle (col. 5, 42-48), suggesting that there is more than one axis of rotation. When a window is selected by the user, it becomes opaque. The user may select, add, delete, or launch icons (col. 6, lines 2-5).

The Office Action mailed October 9, 2003 (page 6, line 14, through page 7, line 2) and the Final Office Action (page 6, lines 8-12) mailed May 6, 2003, asserted "Applicant has argued that Goh does not disclose 'how a window is selected in the case where overlapping windows are shown.' However, the Examiner does not agree because even though the user must rotate a target such that it is the top image layer and then select, the system of Goh (figure 5) still shows at least two selectable targets (104), (106) for the user to select from at the same time." However, the claims recite "all of said at least two selectable targets displayed on said at least a portion of said display capable of being simultaneously displayed in a simulated rotation about an axis" and "each one of said all of said at least two selectable targets displayed on said at least a portion of said display remains continuously selectable during said simulated rotation." The Office Action mailed October 9, 2003, page 6, lines 2-8, further asserts "The Examiner interprets a language of the term 'all of said at least two selectable targets' of the claims in a broad interpretation as only two selectable targets displayed on the portion. Therefore, figure 5 of Goh shows the two selectable targets (104), (106). The two

windows 104 and 106 are still represented for the users to select in the case the two back windows are overlapped. Applicant's attention is also directed to figure 12 of the invention. It looks similar to figure 5 of the prior art (Goh)." In response, Applicant notes that the claim language is not merely the targets are "selectable," but that "each one of said all of said at least two selectable targets displayed on said at least a portion of said display remains continuously selectable during said simulated rotation." Applicant asserts that if the targets are located in a face of a cube under another face of the cube, each one of said all of said at least two selectable targets do not remain continuously selectable during a simulated rotation. Also, the claims in question follow what is shown in the embodiment illustrated in Figure 4.

As Goh does not disclose how a window (or face) is selected in the case where overlapping windows (or faces) are shown, it is not known how this is accomplished. Presumably, the user must rotate a face such that it is the top image layer and then select it. Thus, the targets (whether a window or an icon of the window) in Goh do not all remain continuously selectable during said simulated rotation. That is, during a portion of the time of the simulated rotation, the target is not selectable by the user.

Thus, Goh does not anticipate Claims 1-3, 5-7, 10-16, 18-20, 23-29, 31-33, 36-42, 44-46, and 49-76.

GROUP II

Claims 2, 15, 28, and 41 recite "said interface is capable of varying the displayed size of said targets during said simulated rotation about said axis." Group II is patentably distinguishable from Group I because of this limitation.

The Patent Office asserted in the Office Action mailed October 9, 2003, page 3, lines 1-5, and in the Final Office Action mailed May 9, 2003, "the difference between Goh and the claim is interface is capable of varying the displayed size of said targets during said simulate rotation about said axis." Then, the Patent Office asserted in the Office Action mailed October 9, 2003, "Goh teaches the interface being capable of varying the displayed size of said targets during said simulated rotation about said axis. In figure 5, the windows (104, 106) and their icons rotate about Y axis. Window (104) would change its size (smaller) when it moves to the back of the screen (500) due to the

viewing point perspective." However, Figure 5 of Goh appears to show icons in the background of the same size as icons in the foreground. Similarly, Figure 6 of Goh appears not to change the size of the icons in this other embodiment (e.g. the cameras appear to be of the same size as do the file cabinets in Figure 6).

Thus, Claims 2, 15, 28, and 41 are not anticipated by Goh for this additional reason.

GROUP III

Claims 5, 18, 31, and 44 recite "said interface is capable of modifying said targets being displayed on said display in response to a change in focus on content being displayed in another portion of said display." Group III is patentably distinguishable from Groups I and II because of this limitation. Modifying targets serves to aid users in an image intense environment.

Goh discloses a user can interact with a computer system by manipulating graphical objects on the display screen using the keyboard and/or the mouse (col. 3, lines 48-50). Goh further discloses windows that can be manipulated independently of that portion of the display screen outside the frame (col. 3, lines 55-57). Goh yet further discloses a window may contain icons which are graphical display objects representing commands, applications, and the like (col. 3, lines 60-62).

Referring to the Office Action mailed October 9, 2003, page 3, lines 11-14, and the Final Office Action mailed May 6, 2003, Goh discusses the prior art in column 1 and does not disclose the claimed limitation. Goh (col. 2, lines 22-25) discloses viewing different icons by viewing different windows; however, the viewing of different icons does not result in modifying targets in response to another portion of the display because the icons are in the same portion of the display as the window. Opening an icon (col. 6, lines 6-11) in Goh does not result in modifying targets in response to another portion of the display. If multiple icons are displayed and one icon is selected, the other icons remain, as before, unselected and so are not modified.

Goh does not disclose an interface that is "capable of modifying said targets being displayed on said display in response to a change in focus on content being displayed in another portion of said display."

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Thus, Claims 5, 18, 31, and 44 are allowable over Goh for this additional reason.

GROUP IV

Claims 7, 20, 33, and 46 recite "said interface is capable of providing focus to a specific target in response to said cursor being positioned at least partially within said specific target's hotspot boundary." Group IV is patentably distinguishable from Groups I-III because of this limitation. Providing focus serves to aid users in an image intense environment.

Regarding the comments of page 8, lines 1-9, of the Final Office Action mailed May 6, 2003, the Patent Office asserted that Goh was an insufficient teaching, by itself, for the subject matter of Claims 7, 20, 33, and 46. In the Office Action mailed October 9, 2003, page 3, lines 11-14, the Patent Office asserted that "Goh also demonstrates the interface is capable of modifying said targets being displayed on said display in response to a change in focus on content being displayed in another portion of said display (column 3, lines 47-60)."

Goh discloses icons on windows. Goh (column 3, lines 47-60) discloses a graphical user interface in which the user manipulates graphical objects using a keyboard and/or mouse and discloses windows which can contain text. Neither the icons nor the windows of Goh are disclosed as having hotspot boundaries nor that an interface is capable of providing focus to a specific target in response to said cursor being positioned at least partially within said specific target's hotspot boundary.

Therefore, Claims 7, 20, 33, and 46 are allowable because they depend from allowable base claims 1, 14, 27, and 40 and for this additional reason.

GROUP V

Claims 53, 59, 65, and 71 recite "said simulated rotation is a 360 degree revolution in a substantially circular orbit about said axis." Group V is patentably distinguishable from Groups I to IV because of this limitation.

The Patent Office asserted that this limitation is disclosed in Figure 5 of Goh. The Patent Office asserted, on page 4, lines 8-11, in the Office Action mailed October 9, 2003, "The polyhedron rotates under the user's control so that each face is presented to

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the user. It is clear that the user can view all of the faces of the polyhedron. That means the polyhedron can rotate 360 degree in a circular orbit about the axis."

However, Claims 53, 59, 65, and 71 are merely presented in shorthand. For example, Claim 53 not only includes the limitation that "said simulated rotation is a 360 degree revolution in a substantially circular orbit about said axis," but also includes "each one of said all of said at least two selectable targets displayed on said at least a portion of said display remains continuously selectable during said simulated rotation" (from base claim 1).

The Patent Office asserted, on page 7, lines 13-19, of the Office Action mailed October 9, 2003, "While Goh proves to show 'each one of said all of said at least two selectable targets displayed on said at least a portion of said display remains continuously selectable during simulated rotation', it also teaches 'said simulated rotation is a 360 degree revolution in a substantially circular orbit about said axis'. All the targets would rotate around the substantially circular orbit because the target has to get back to the user. How can these targets get back to the user if they don't rotate 360 degree?"

Goh does not disclose or suggest that each one of all the at least two selectable targets remains continuously selectable during a simulated rotation corresponding to a 360 degree revolution in a substantially circular orbit about the axis. Rather, Goh discloses that a target may be selectable during a portion of a 360 degree rotation.

Thus, Claims 53, 59, 65, and 71 are not anticipated by Goh and are allowable for this additional reason.

GROUP VI

Claims 57, 63, 69, and 75 recite "said axis substantially lies within a plane of a screen of said display." Group VI is patentably distinguishable from Groups I to V because of this limitation.

The Patent Office asserted that this limitation is disclosed in Figure 5 of Goh. The Patent Office, on page 8, lines 1-3, of the Office Action mailed October 9, 2003, asserted "However, the arguments are not persuasive because even though there is not visually the axis, but the users always can image a string (axis) going through of the middle of the plan of figure 5."

Goh asserts (col. 5, lines 41-46) "the cube can rotate in any one of at least three modes: (1) the cube may rotate constantly, (2) the cube may rotate under the user's control, or (3) both. The cube has a default rotation pattern such that each face of the cube is displayed as normal to the user's line of sight once during each rotation cycle;" however, no axis orientation is clearly shown as lying within a plane of the screen of the display in Figure 5 or described as such in the text.

Thus, Claims 57, 63, 69, and 75 are not anticipated by Goh and are allowable for this additional reason.

GROUP VII

Claims 58, 64, 70, and 76 recite "said axis is substantially normal to a plane of a screen of said display." Group VII is patentably distinguishable from Groups I to VI because of this limitation.

The Patent Office asserted that this limitation is disclosed in Figure 5 of Goh. The Patent Office, on page 8, lines 1-3, of the Office Action mailed October 9, 2003, asserted "However, the arguments are not persuasive because even though there is not visually the axis, but the users always can image a string (axis) going through of the middle of the plan of figure 5."

Goh asserts (col. 5, lines 41-46) "the cube can rotate in any one of at least three modes: (1) the cube may rotate constantly, (2) the cube may rotate under the user's control, or (3) both. The cube has a default rotation pattern such that each face of the cube is displayed as normal to the user's line of sight once during each rotation cycle;" however, no axis orientation is clearly shown as substantially normal to the plane of the screen of the display in Figure 5 or described as such in the text.

Thus, Claims 58, 64, 70, and 76 are not anticipated by Goh and are allowable for this additional reason.

ISSUE II

The issue is whether the Patent Office properly rejected Claims 4, 17, 30, and 43 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goh, U.S. Patent No. 5,678,015, in view of Nielsen, U.S. Patent No. 6,078,935.

GROUP VIII

The examiner is kindly reminded that in order to establish *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on applicant's disclosure. MPEP § 2142.

Claims 4, 17, 30, and 43 recite "said interface is capable of displaying additional information, on at least a portion of said display, associated with a specific target when said cursor is positioned at least partially within said specific target's hotspot boundary." Group VIII is patentably distinguishable from Groups I-VII because of this limitation. Displaying additional information when the cursor is positioned within the specific target's hotspot boundary serves to aid users in an image intense environment.

Claims 4, 17, 30, and 43 recite "additional information" to be shown when the "cursor is positioned at least partially within said specific target's hotspot boundary."

Goh discloses a three dimensional cube having faces in which each face may contain a plurality of icons corresponding to an application. Goh discloses each icon typically represents a command (col. 4, lines 14-25) and is concerned with viewing all icons simultaneously. Each icon in Goh is shown as a simple symbolic feature. There is no disclosure in Goh that the icon has more than one function. The two views of an icon correspond to a frontal view and a backward view looking through the cube.

Nielsen shows a web page with a tooltip displayed thereon (figure 4) and discloses a web page with a tooltip (a text area that display automatically when the user places the cursor over predetermined text on a display device) (column 1, line 60, through column 2, line 6; column 4, lines 55-67).

Goh discloses a satisfactory solution to a problem to allow a user to see all icons simultaneously (col. 2, lines 26-51). Each icon is associated with a function. Thus, Goh

presents an interface in which all available functions are always visible (but not selectable) to a user. Contrary to the argument of the Office Action mailed October 9, 2003, page 5, lines 19-24 (last six lines on page 5), because Goh relates to an extremely intense icon environment in which Goh resorts to displaying the icons on the faces of a cube (column 4, lines 12-25), Goh is not amenable to modification to add more text that would clutter the presentation of icons. The drop-down menus of Goh relate to setting up a particular cube configuration (column 6, lines 15-29).

Thus the combination of Goh and Nielsen is inappropriate and Goh is not modifiable by Nielsen.

Thus, claims 4, 17, 30, and 43 are allowable over the prior art of record not only because they depend from allowable independent claims, but also on their own merit.

CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-76 are allowable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, reversal of all outstanding rejections is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

GATEWAY, INC.,

Dated: December 1, 2003

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(9)   CLAIMS

1.   A user interface comprising:

a display;

a cursor capable of being displayed on said display;

a cursor control device capable of controlling said cursor's position and movement on said display;

at least two selectable targets displayed on at least a portion of said display; and all of said at least two selectable targets displayed on said at least a portion of said display capable of being simultaneously displayed in a simulated rotation about an axis while each one of said all of said at least two selectable targets displayed on said at least a portion of said display remains continuously selectable during said simulated rotation.

2.   The user interface, as defined in claim 1, wherein said interface is capable of varying the displayed size of said targets during said simulated rotation about said axis.

3.   The user interface, as defined in claim 1, wherein each of said targets are associated with a corresponding function capable of being performed in response to selection of said targets by a user via said cursor and said cursor control device.

4.   The user interface, as defined in claim 3, wherein said interface is capable of displaying additional information, on at least a portion of said display, associated with a specific target when said cursor is positioned at least partially within said specific target's hotspot boundary.

5.   The user interface, as defined in claim 3, wherein said interface is capable of modifying said targets being displayed on said display in response to a change in focus on content being displayed in another portion of said display.

6.   The user interface, as defined in claim 1, wherein said interface is capable of displaying said simulated rotation of said targets about said axis in a simulated three-dimensional presentation.

7.   The user interface, as defined in claim 6, wherein said interface is capable of providing focus to a specific target in response to said cursor being positioned at least partially within said specific target's hotspot boundary.

8.   The user interface, as defined in claim 1, wherein said cursor is capable of modifying its presentation into a shape similar to the shape of a specific target which is being given focus by said cursor.

9.   The user interface, as defined in claim 8, wherein the modification in the presentation of said cursor further comprises changing the shape of said cursor into a shape similar to a miniature version of the shape of said specific target.

10.   The user interface, as defined in claim 1, wherein said targets are displayed as an animated sequence of movement.

11.   The user interface, as defined in claim 1, wherein each of said at least two selectable targets is presented as a polygonal shaped target.

12.   The user interface, as defined in claim 11, wherein said polygonal shaped target is capable of displaying content on each of its user-visible sides.

13.   The user interface, as defined in claim 1, wherein said targets are capable of remaining visible as said targets travel in a simulated rotation about said axis.

14.   A system comprising:
       at least one processor;
       memory operably associated with said processor; and

a user interface, said user interface comprising

a display;

a cursor capable of being displayed on said display;

a cursor control device capable of controlling said cursor's position and movement on said display;

at least two selectable targets displayed on at least a portion of said display; and all of said at least two selectable targets displayed on said at least a portion of said display capable of being simultaneously displayed in a simulated rotation about an axis while each one of said all of said at least two selectable targets displayed on said at least a portion of said display remains continuously selectable during said simulated rotation.

15. The system, as defined in claim 14, wherein said interface is capable of varying the displayed size of said targets during said simulated rotation about said axis.

16. The system, as defined in claim 14, wherein each of said targets are associated with a corresponding function capable of being performed in response to selection of said targets by a user via said cursor and said cursor control device.

17. The system, as defined in claim 16, wherein said interface is capable of displaying additional information, on at least a portion of said display, associated with a specific target when said cursor is positioned at least partially within said specific target's hotspot boundary.

18. The system, as defined in claim 16, wherein said interface is capable of modifying said targets being displayed on said display in response to a change in focus on content being displayed in another portion of said display.

19. The system, as defined in claim 14, wherein said interface is capable of displaying said simulated rotation of said targets about said targets about said axis in a simulated three-dimensional presentation.

20.   The system, as defined in claim 19, wherein said interface is capable of providing focus to a specific target in response to said cursor being positioned at least partially within said specific target's hotspot boundary.

21.   The system, as defined in claim 14, wherein said cursor is capable of modifying its presentation into a shape similar to the shape of a specific target which is being given focus by said cursor.

22.   The system, as defined in claim 21, wherein the modification in the presentation of said cursor further comprises changing the shape of said cursor into a shape similar to a miniature version of the shape of said specific target.

23.   The system, as defined in claim 14, wherein said targets are displayed as an animated sequence of movement.

24.   The system, as defined in claim 14, wherein each of said at least two selectable targets is presented as polygonal shaped target.

25.   The system, as defined in claim 24, wherein said polygonal shaped target is capable of displaying content on each of its user-visible sides.

26.   The system, as defined in claim 14, wherein said targets are capable of remaining visible as said targets travel in a simulated rotation about said axis.

27.   A computer readable medium tangibly embodying a program of instructions capable of implementing the following steps:

displaying at least two selectable targets on at least a portion of a display, all of said at least two selectable targets displayed on said at least a portion of said display capable of being simultaneously displayed in a simulated rotation about an axis while each one of said all of said at least two selectable targets displayed on said at least a portion of said display remains continuously selectable during said simulated rotation.

28. The computer readable medium, as defined in claim 27, being capable of further implementing the step of varying the displayed size of said targets during said simulated rotation about said axis.

29. The computer readable medium, as defined in claim 27, being capable of further implementing the step of associating each of said targets with a corresponding function capable of being performed in response to selection of said targets by a user via a cursor and a cursor control device.

30. The computer readable medium, as defined in claim 29, being capable of further implementing the step of displaying additional information, on at least a portion of the display, associated with a specific target when said cursor is positioned at least partially within said specific target's hotspot boundary.

31. The computer readable medium, as defined in claim 29, being capable of further implementing the step of modifying said targets being displayed on said display in response to a change in focus on content being displayed in another portion of said display.

32. The computer readable medium, as defined in claim 27, being capable of further implementing the step of displaying said simulated rotation of said targets about said axis in a simulated three-dimensional presentation.

33. The computer readable medium, as defined in claim 32, being capable of further implementing the step of providing focus to a specific target in response to said cursor being positioned at least partially within said specific target's hotspot boundary.

34. The computer readable medium, as defined in claim 33, being capable of further implementing the step of modifying said cursor's presentation into a shape similar to the shape of a specific target which is being given focus by said cursor.

35.   The computer readable medium, as defined in claim 34, being capable of further implementing the step of modification such that said cursor's presentation further comprises changing the shape of said cursor into a shape similar to a miniature version of the shape of said specific target.

36.   The computer readable medium, as defined in claim 27, being capable of further implementing the step of displaying said targets as an animated sequence of movement.

37.   The computer readable medium, as defined in claim 27, wherein each of said at least two selectable targets is presented as a polygonal shaped target.

38.   The computer readable medium, as defined in claim 37, wherein said polygonal shaped target is capable of displaying content on each of its user-visible sites.

39.   The computer readable medium, as defined in claim 27, being capable of further implementing the step of keeping said targets visible as said targets travel in a simulated rotation about said axis.

40.   A method comprising the following steps:

        displaying at least two selectable targets on at least a portion of a display, all of said at least two selectable targets displayed on said at least a portion of said display capable of being simultaneously displayed in a simulated rotation about an axis while each one of said all of said at least two selectable targets displayed on said at least a portion of said display remains continuously selectable during said simulated rotation.

41.   The method, as defined in claim 40, further implementing the step of varying the displayed size of said targets during said simulated rotation about said axis.

42.   The method, as defined in claim 40, further implementing the step of associating each of said targets with a corresponding function capable of being performed in response to selection of said targets by a user via a cursor and a cursor control device.

43.   The method, as defined in claim 42, further implementing the step of displaying additional information, on at least a portion of the display, associated with a specific target when said cursor is positioned at least partially within said specific target's hotspot boundary.

44.   The method, as defined in claim 42, further implementing the step of modifying said targets being displayed on said display in response to a change in focus on content being displayed in another portion of said display.

45.   The method, as defined in claim 40, further implementing the step of displaying said simulated rotation of said targets about said axis in a simulated three-dimensional presentation.

46.   The method, as defined in claim 45, further implementing the step of providing focus to a specific target in response to said cursor being positioned at least partially within said specific target's hotspot boundary.

47.   The method, as defined in claim 46, further implementing the step of modifying said cursor's presentation into a shape similar to the shape of a specific target which is being given focus by said cursor.

48.   The method, as defined in claim 47, further implementing the step of modification such that said cursor's presentation further comprises changing the shape of said cursor into a shape similar to a miniature version of the shape of said specific target.

49.   The method, as defined in claim 40, further implementing the step of displaying said targets as an animated sequence of movement.

50.   The method, as defined in claim 40, wherein each of said at least two selectable targets is presented as a polygonal shaped target.

51.   The method, as defined in claim 50, wherein said polygonal shaped target is capable of displaying content on each of its user-visible sides.

52.   The method, as defined in claim 40, further implementing the step of keeping said targets visible as said targets travel in a simulated rotation about said axis.

53.   The user interface of Claim 1, wherein said simulated rotation is a 360 degree revolution in a substantially circular orbit about said axis.

54.   The user interface of Claim 1, wherein said all of said at least two selectable targets are located at different points along a common orbit about said axis during said simulated rotation.

55.   The user interface of Claim 1, wherein two or more of said at least two selectable targets are located in different orbits about said axis during said simulated rotation.

56.   The user interface of Claim 55, wherein said different orbits are located in parallel planes.

57.   The user interface of Claim 1, wherein said axis substantially lies within a plane of a screen of said display.

58.   The user interface of Claim 1, wherein said axis is substantially normal to a plane of a screen of said display.

59.   The system of Claim 14, wherein said simulated rotation is a 360 degree revolution in a substantially circular orbit about said axis.

60.   The system of Claim 14, wherein said all of said at least two selectable targets are located at different points along a common orbit about said axis during said simulated rotation.

61.   The system of Claim 14, wherein two or more of said at least two selectable targets are located in different orbits about said axis during said simulated rotation.

62.   The system of Claim 61, wherein said different orbits are located in parallel planes.

63.   The system of Claim 14, wherein said axis substantially lies within a plane of a screen of said display.

64.   The system of Claim 14, wherein said axis is substantially normal to a plane of a screen of said display.

65.   The computer readable medium of Claim 27, wherein said simulated rotation is a 360 degree revolution in a substantially circular orbit about said axis.

66.   The computer readable medium of Claim 27, wherein said all of said at least two selectable targets are located at different points along a common orbit about said axis during said simulated rotation.

67.   The computer readable medium of Claim 27, wherein two or more of said at least two selectable targets are located in different orbits about said axis during said simulated rotation.

68.   The computer readable medium of Claim 67, wherein said different orbits are located in parallel planes.

69.   The computer readable medium of Claim 27, wherein said axis substantially lies within a plane of a screen of said display.

70.   The computer readable medium of Claim 27, wherein said axis is substantially normal to a plane of a screen of said display.

71.   The method of Claim 40, wherein said simulated rotation is a 360 degree revolution in a substantially circular orbit about said axis.

72.   The method of Claim 40, wherein said all of said at least two selectable targets are located at different points along a common orbit about said axis during said simulated rotation.

73.   The method of Claim 40, wherein two or more of said at least two selectable targets are located in different orbits about said axis during said simulated rotation.

74.   The method of Claim 73, wherein said different orbits are located in parallel planes.

75.   The method of Claim 40, wherein said axis substantially lies within a plane of a screen of said display.

76.   The method of Claim 40, wherein said axis is substantially normal to a plane of a screen of said display.